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Hunt Begins for New FBI Chief

Webster Outlines Goals for Central Intelligence Agency to Reagan

By Mary Thornton and ~~Dustin Doder~~
Washington Post Staff Writers

The Reagan administration began yesterday to consider possible replacements for FBI Director William H. Webster, nominated Tuesday to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

Administration sources said last night that although several names have been mentioned, no choices have been made and none of the potential candidates has been contacted.

A favorite at the Justice Department is U.S. District Court Judge D. Lowell Jensen, 58, of San Francisco, who was deputy attorney general before being named to the bench last July. Jensen, a Democrat, was a longtime prosecutor in Oakland, Calif., and has worked closely with Attorney General Edwin Meese III for many years.

Jensen is popular on Capitol Hill and in law enforcement agencies because of his low-key approach. But several friends said yesterday they believe Jensen might be reluctant to move again so quickly.

Other possibilities mentioned included John Simpson, head of the Secret Service; Associate Attorney General Stephen Trott; Rudolph W. Giuliani, U.S. attorney in Manhattan, and Joseph E. diGenova, U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

One name floated yesterday by some administration conservatives is William Lucas, 58, a Michigan Republican who tried unsuccessfully last year to become the nation's first black governor. Lucas, a for-

mer county executive and sheriff in Wayne County (Detroit), spent about 4½ years as a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent in the mid-1960s.

Administration sources said that Lucas, a former Democrat who switched parties in 1985, is backed by Vice President Bush, former President Gerald R. Ford and former senator Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.).

Meese said at a congressional hearing yesterday that the new FBI director should not be picked "on the basis of past political involvement," should not be a close ally of the president and "should be capable of being confirmed rather quickly."

Under questioning by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.), Meese said he discussed the succession issue with Webster yesterday and that Webster will "actively participate" in the search for a replacement. Webster has urged the administration to find a replacement who is independent and politically neutral.

Webster, FBI director for nine years, spoke to reporters after a brief Oval Office meeting yesterday during which he told President Reagan he intended "to do the best job I can" in restoring CIA morale and imposing tighter supervision on the U.S. intelligence community.

Webster promised, if confirmed as expected by the Senate, to be more forthcoming than his predecessor, William J. Casey, in notifying Congress about covert actions.

Asked by reporters about the failure of the CIA and others in the

administration to inform Congress about clandestine arms sales to Iran, Webster said he thinks that it is "important that Congress be informed just as soon and just as fully as is possible within the constraints of national security."

Webster has said he would resign if ordered to do something he considered illegal. In a Feb. 17 C-SPAN television interview, he said, "Every director of the CIA or the FBI should be prepared to resign in the event that he is asked to do something that he knows is wrong."

On the Iran controversy, Webster said yesterday, "I think I need to know a great deal more about it than I currently do now . . . We all want to know as much as we can," he said. "Robert Gates said he wanted to take advantage of lessons learned. So do I," Webster added.

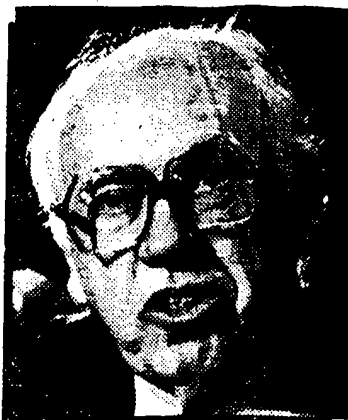
Gates, the deputy director at the CIA, was initially nominated to replace Casey, who resigned following cancer surgery.

But Gates withdrew from consideration Monday because of Senate concern about his role in the Iran affair. Under intense questioning, Gates refused to say flatly he would resign if ordered to do something illegal.

Webster, who said he plans to make recommendations on a new FBI director, said, "I hope it will be someone who will continue the principles of professionalism of the FBI and the independence from partisan political influence and someone who has deep devotion to the rule of law."

"I think he has to satisfy the public perception of political neutrality,

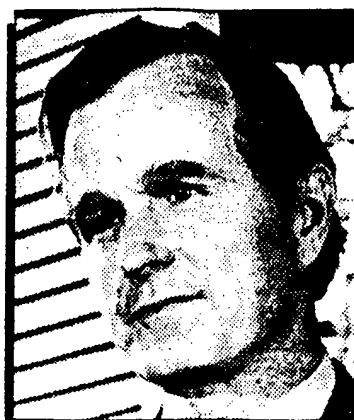
RECENT CIA DIRECTORS AND THEIR TENURE



William J. Casey
Jan. 28, 1981-Jan. 29, 1987



Adm. Stansfield Turner
March 9, 1977-Jan. 20, 1981



George Bush
Jan. 30, 1976-Jan. 20, 1977



William E. Colby
Sept. 4, 1973-Jan. 30, 1976



James R. Schlesinger
Feb. 2, 1973-July 2, 1973



Richard Helms
June 30, 1966-Feb. 2, 1973

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but I don't think that you should rule out someone simply because they have been in a government position of association with the attorney general," Webster said.

Meanwhile, Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill predicted that Webster will win confirmation easily. Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) called Web-

ster "a highly regarded professional who will bring much-needed credibility to the CIA."

"The president could not have picked a better person," Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.), told Webster who was testifying before a House Judiciary subcommittee on the FBI budget. "You always have had our respect and admiration . . . You've

restored confidence in the bureau." Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-Wis.) called Webster "one of the few federal officials who is valued and deeply respected by both sides of the aisle . . . You have been a first-class public official."

Staff writers Howard Kurtz, Lou Cannon and David Hoffman contributed to this report.